

Unit Handout
4 10

Lesson 6: Trends in Storm Data

Purpose: Observe data maps of tornadoes and hurricanes/typhoons and make inferences about these storms.

Guiding Questions: What patterns exist within data of severe storms?

Getting Started 1. Answer the following questions with a **True** or **False**. Write a short explanation to justify your choice. For the purpose of this activity, the term *tornado* will refer to any form of a rotating column of air (e.g. a tornado or waterspout).

1. Tornadoes mostly occur during the spring and summer; they rarely occur during the fall and winter.
2. The strongest tornadoes (EF5) occur mostly in Tornado Alley and Dixie Alley.
3. Tornadoes frequently move from southwest to northeast.
4. Tornadoes have occurred in all 50 US states.
5. Tornadoes never occur in big cities.
6. Tornadoes mostly occur on land but some have occurred over water and in the ocean.

Data Analysis 1. Use the Tornado History Project map to seek data to help you answer the questions above. The questions are written again in the space below. Take screenshots of tornadoes and their paths to help support the answers to the questions. For the purpose of this activity, the term *tornado* will refer to any form of a rotating column of air (e.g. a tornado or waterspout).

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Getting Started 2. Answer the following questions about hurricanes/typhoons/cyclones by writing **True** or **False**. Write a short explanation to justify your choice. For the purpose of this activity, the term *hurricane* will refer to any massive, rotating storm system form in oceans (e.g. hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones).

1. Hurricane strength decreases after landfall.

2. Hurricanes, after landing in the contiguous United States, tend to curve right and move upward along the east coast.

Exploration. Continue to explore storms on the tornado and hurricane maps. What other questions do you have about storms that you can answer using the data maps? Write your questions in the space below and answer them using data from the maps.